

XXVIIIth GENEAL ASSEMBLY.

SENATE—MORNING SESSION.

THURSDAY, January 28.

Senator Terry introduced a concurrent resolution memorializing Congress to pass a law guaranteeing the interest on the Atlantic and Pacific Railway companies, on the ground of the peculiar interest of our frontier in the construction of the road.

Referred to Committee on Federal Relations.

Senator Morrison presented the petition of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad by Thomas Allen for an act requiring the State Auditor to place to the credit of that road the amount of \$40,458, being a part of the balance due the State on the sale of the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad, which under the law of the State was expended in extending said road, the same being due said company on said account.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Strother from the Committee on Judiciary reported adversely on Senate bill amending the law establishing probate courts in certain counties, to give the Judge of the New Madrid probate court certain extra power, indefinitely postponed.

Senator Phelan, from St. Louis Delegation, amending the charter of St. Louis, prohibiting the city council from creating a floating debt. Passed.

Senator Phelan from St. Louis Delegation reported a substitute for bill prescribing the form of election ballot, in and the manner of conducting elections in St. Louis county. Bill provides that ballot shall be printed on white paper and have a certain margin.

Temporarily withdrawn for correction.

Senator Strother from Committee on Judiciary reported adversely on Senate bill extending the limit of authority to witnesses to testify in their own behalf. Indefinitely postponed.

Senator Price from Committee on Claims, reported favorably on resolution of instruction to State Auditor directing the payment of South west expedition, certificates held by Mr. J. E. Warr.

Laid over till Tuesday, for the purpose of ascertaining if the claim of Mr. Arnott of St. Louis, should not be included.

Senator Phelan from Committee on Banks and Corporations, reported favorably on bill disqualifying for the office of railroad directors, any stockholder in "White Line," "Red Line," or "Star Line" corporations formed in other States. Passed.

Senator Strother from Committee on Judiciary, reported back Senate bill amending the law concerning the estates of deceased persons, in regard to the time of exhibiting claims against preferences, limitation, etc.

The bill is lengthy and makes several radical changes in the existing law.

Bill ordered to an engrossment, and to be printed.

Senator Strother from Committee on Judiciary, to whom was referred communication of State Auditor, giving list of judges of common pleas court receiving pay from State, reported several bills.

First that Judge of Platte common pleas court shall be paid by county.

Laid over informally.

President appointed on Committee on Penitentiary, Senators McGinnis and Patterson.

Adjourned.

SENATE—AFTERNOON SESSION.

Senator Strother of the Judiciary Committee having the floor for reports, relieved the State from the payment of salaries to Judges of common pleas courts.

Bill requiring the county of Cape Girardeau to pay salary of common pleas judge. Passed.

A message was received from the Governor advising an act prescribing a rate of fees to be charged for services by the Adjutant-General to private individuals, setting forth as a reason that a reasonable compensation for private services, would make the office self-sustaining.

Referred to Committee on Militia.

Memorials of the National Board of Trade were received and appropriately referred.

Senator Phelan from St. Louis Delegation reported a bill prescribing the form of election ballots and the manner of conducting elections in counties having a population of more than 100,000.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill provides that all tickets throughout the State shall be written or printed on white paper and in St. Louis to have a margin of an inch and a half and to have no device whatever.

The bill also provides for four judges, two receiving judges and two counting judges, who are to receive and count the ballots as the election proceeds.

Senator Strother introduced a bill to provide for and facilitate the perfection of deeds by Executors and Administrators.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and ordered printed.

Senator Rubey was excused from service in visiting the university on committee and Senator Thompson appointed in his stead.

Senator Price introduced a bill amending General Statutes.

Senator Rubey introduced a bill for the relief of Sullivan and Dodd, contractors of the Normal school at Kirksville.

Referred, with documents, to Committee on Claims.

Senator Williams introduced a bill amending general law concerning equitable liens.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

House Bill establishing a probate court and common pleas at Moberly.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

House Resolution to adjourn *sine die* referred to committee on unfinished business.

Other House Bills were read and referred.

Adjourned.

HOUSE—MORNING SESSION.

THURSDAY, January 28.

Petition from citizens of Randolph county relative to reduction of salaries.

Referred to Committee on Retrenchment and Reform.

Same from citizens of Jackson county.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolution, amending rules to provide that House shall adjourn at 12 M. each day in order to allow committees to work, etc., called up and adopted.

Mr. Downing, that Committee on Revenue be directed to inquire and report as to expediency of providing that assessments for taxation of property shall be made but once in four years, by assessors selected by county courts; tax to be collected by county treasurer; sales of real estate once in four years; taxes payable June 1st, annual penalty 25 per cent.; State Board of Equalization to consist of Governor, Secretary, Auditor, Treasurer and Attorney-General; no deed or mortgage to be recorded until taxes are paid on property affected.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Tittman, to quiet titles to land, and to prevent vexatious litigation by the admission of sworn testimony relative to old possessions and cultivation.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Hall, of Vernon, amending act concerning the disposition of Agricultural College grant.

Referred to Committee on Education.

Mr. Rolfe, to pay J. L. Cross, late assessor of Henry county, \$151.

Referred to Committee on Claims.

Mr. Sexton, relative to subject of railroad stock subscribed by counties, cities and towns, and supplementary to chapter 63 of general statutes, etc.

Referred to Committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. Wagner, amending section 7, article 1, chapter 134 Wagner's Statutes, relative to town councils, etc.

Referred to Committee on Banks and Corporations.

Mr. Phelps, amending section 10, article 1, chapter 4, concerning agricultural societies.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Powell, amending charter of Independence, Missouri.

Referred to Committee on Banks and Corporations.

Mr. McClelland, amending act reorganizing Adair county court.

Referred to Committee on Local Bills.

Mr. Barrett, concerning swamp and overflowed lands in Dunklin county.

Referred to Committee on Swamp Lands.

Mr. Rittenhouse, amending revenue law concerning the deduction of debts due corporations, etc.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Post, amending section 24 of an act relative to fire insurance companies.

Referred to Committee on Insurance.

Mr. Thatcher, amending charter of Sedalia.

Referred to Committee on Local Bills.

Mr. Bohart, joint resolution calling on the late Superintendent of Schools for the annual report of 1874.

Referred to Committee on Education.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Judiciary: Bill changing law in relation to landlords and tenants, so that verbal contracts for rental of houses may be good for six months, instead of one month as now provided by law. Passed.

Education: Adversely on bill amending school law, introduced by Mr. Morehead. Report agreed to.

Agriculture: Substitute for bill amending law to encourage growth of forest trees. Agreed to, and bill passed.

St. Louis Delegation: Bill amending charter of Union Merchants Exchange, St. Louis. Passed.

Ways and Means: Bill amending revenue law so as to substitute "personal property" for "household furniture," allowing \$200 worth to be exempt from assessment and taxation.

Public Printing: Resolution that Chief Clerk furnish 3 copies of Hickox's Directory to each Member and officer. Adopted.

Insurance: Substitute for bill concerning installment insurance. Agreed to, and bill passed.

The bill provides that insurance companies doing business on the installment or note plan shall pay full loss where same occurs.

Education: Bill concerning Boards of Education in towns and villages. Made special order for Thursday at 11 A. M.

Township Organization: Adversely reports on three bills affecting counties having township organization, two of which were agreed to and the third made special order for 11 o'clock, M. Monday.

Elections: Report asking instructions concerning the memorial of Lackland vs Hutchins, asking instructions from House whether the Committee should proceed under sections 60 to 67 of chapter 81 Wagner's Statutes, or under section 19, article 4 of Constitution.

Mr. Bailey moved the questions be referred to Committee on Judiciary for their decision.

Mr. Bradley said he had concurred in the report, but thought the proper way was to proceed under the statute.

Mr. Givens said there were grave doubts concerning the mode of procedure, citing the same briefly.

Mr. McClelland favored reference to Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Murray thought the reference had an appearance of shirking the responsibility.

Mr. Hudson, of St. Louis, desired to have the questions recommitted to committee, with instructions to proceed under statute, and made motion to that effect.

Mr. Bailey thought the questions were such as should properly be referred to Judiciary Committee.

After some further discussion the motion of Mr. Hudson was agreed to by a vote of 56 to 35.

The bill concerning clerks of courts of record was recommitted to Committee on Retrenchment and Reform.

Substitutes for House bills concerning taxation of railroad property made special order for 11 A. M. to-morrow.

Mr. O'Neil on a question of privilege with reference to an editorial in St. Louis Democrat concerning bill introduced by him for better protection of lives against accidents by steam, said he had introduced same at instance of well known parties in St. Louis and knowing nothing of its merits or demerits.

Mr. Bailey from special committee made report on sanitary condition of the Capitol recommending the excavation of an area seven feet in width, around the basement of the building and that arrangements be made for heating the same by steam, also, that a substitute committee of three be appointed to visit St. Louis to ascertain cost, etc. The report was agreed to.

Adjourned till 9:30 A. M. to-morrow.

SENATE—MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, January 29.

Senator Phelan, from Committee on Banks and Corporations, reported favorably on House bill, authorizing the city council of Louisiana to lease a tract of ground on the levee of said city for an elevator.

Passed.

Senator Thompson, from Committee on Internal Improvements, to whom was referred the resolution instructing the committee to inquire what legislation was necessary for protection against excessive express and railroad charges, reported same back with recommendation that the same be referred to Committee on Retrenchment and Reform.

Not agreed to.

Senator McGinnis called up Senate bill providing for the registration of the voters of St. Louis.

Passed.

Senator Keller, from Committee on Agriculture, reported favorably on bill declaratory of the meaning of the act appropriating money for the State Horticultural Society to be: That the appropriation therein named, \$1,000, be an annual appropriation, instead of a biennial appropriation.

Recommitted to Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Strother, from Committee on Judiciary, reported back House bill relating to landlords and tenant, with the request that it be returned to the House for engrossment. Adopted.

Senator Belch offered a resolution authorizing the committee to settle with State officers, to council uncurrent funds, vouchers, etc.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Thompson introduced a bill to prevent the exchange or sale of adulterated milk and to regulate the milk business.

Referred to Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence.

Senator Strother introduced a bill declaring it unlawful for any county Judge or Justice to become a party to any contract to which said county is a party, or to become a railroad director or agent to procure stock to same or any purpose whatever, and making any such transaction a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment. Passed.

Senator Belch introduced a bill providing that 1,500 copies of the report of the Fund Commissioners be printed. Adopted.

Senator Rubey introduced a bill changing the time of holding the circuit courts of Macon, Adair and Schuyler.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Senate bill providing for appointment of Public Guardians for the better protection of destitute orphan children. Passed.

Adjourned.

SENATE—AFTERNOON SESSION.

Senator Phelan, from Committee on Banks and Corporations, reported in favor of bill authorizing the town of Brunswick to license and regulate livery stables, banks and insurance companies. Passed.

Senator Belch introduced a bill providing for the collation and publication of all the railroad laws of the State.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Rubey introduced a bill establishing a court of common pleas in the town of La Platte, in Macon county.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Thompson introduced a resolution directing the Committee on Permanent Seat of Government to furnish the reporters of the press with desks. Lost.

Senator McGinnis offered a resolution directing the Doorkeeper to furnish the reporters with drawers—in their tables—with locks thereon. Resolution lost.

Senator Phelan offered a resolution directing the Doorkeeper to furnish the reporters of the press with a table 12 feet long with eight drawers. Lost.

Senator Rubey presented a petition of citizens of Macon district, asking change of time for payment of taxes from January to April.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Adjourned till Monday morning ten o'clock.

HOUSE—MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, Jan. 29.

Remonstrance of Reynolds county citizens against change of county boundary.

Referred to Committee on County Boundaries.

Petition of the St. Louis Iron Mountain & Southern Railway.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Petition of Pettis county citizens praying for the establishment of a criminal court in the circuit composed of Layfayette, Pettis and Saline counties.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Petition of Sedaliaans praying for an amendment to the charter of Sedalia so as to permit the election of various city officers, now appointed by the Mayor.

Referred to Committee on Local Bills.

Mr. Bradley, Petition of Oakdale Grange relative to assessment of notes and bonds.

Referred to Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence.

Mr. Downing, Resolution concerning assessment of personal property by bonds and mortgages.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Quayle, Changing time of holding courts in Randolph county.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Hess: Relating to plats, requiring more accuracy, &c.

Referred to Committee on Swamp Lands.

Mr. Mollencott: To adjust the claim of Moritz Neldner.

Referred to the St. Louis Delegation.

Mr. Rolfe: Amending School law.

Referred to Committee on Education.

Mr. Brower: Amending Township Organization Law.

Referred to Committee on Township Organization.

Mr. Read: Amending Statute relating to the Distribution of Public Documents.

Referred to the Committee on Printing.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED.

Amending charter of Cape Girardeau.

Referred to Committee on Banks and Corporations.

Amending Law authorizing County Courts to appoint additional Justices of the Peace.

Concerning mistakes in Deeds of husband and wife.

Bills passed changing time of holding courts in the 10th and 15th judicial circuits.

A message was received from Governor Hardin, reporting the receipts and expenditures of Tobacco Inspector, and recommending reduction of salary so that fees would net a salary of about \$2,000 per annum.

Bill reported from Ways and Means Committee, changing time for State census to August 1st, instead of September 1st, as now provided. Passed.

Bill concerning fees of Justices of the Peace, making the law now applicable to St. Louis apply to Jackson and Buchanan counties. Passed.

Three thousand copies of the report of the Fund Commissioners were ordered printed, also 700 additional copies in German.

The special order being the substitute for House bill number 10, reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, and which so amends the law concerning the assessments and taxation of railroads as to provide for the conduct of suits against railroads refusing to pay taxes, to authorize collector to levy and seize property of railroads for non-payment of taxes, to provide penalties for non-payment and rebate for early payment of taxes, and making other important amendments to existing law, was taken up at 11 A. M., and an hour consumed in its consideration, when under the new rule adopted the day before, the Speaker declared the House adjourned till 9:30 A. M. to-morrow.

HOUSE—MORNING SESSION.

SATURDAY, January 30.

Mr. Bryan offered resolution to amend the rules so as to provide for one daily session from 9:30 o'clock A. M. till 1 o'clock P. M. Laid over one day under the rules.

Mr. Hall, of Saline, offered resolution directing the Commissioner on Permanent Seat of Government to take up and put down the carpet on the floor of the House, for purpose of cleaning and ventilating.

Mr. Adkins thought the carpet could not be taken up without providing a new one.

Mr. Rolfe offered an amendment that the committee purchase a new carpet.

Mr. Bailey offered further amendment, that Speaker appoint a committee to purchase a carpet, etc.

When, on motion of Mr. Adkins, the amendments and resolution were tabled.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Phelps. To establish Southwest Normal School at Carthage, in Jasper county, on condition that the committee donate site, etc.

Referred to Committee on Education.

Mr. King. To authorize the Governor to execute to the Board of Education in trust for the School Fund, a bond of the State for the sum of \$2,050,000, and to transfer \$1,671,600 from U. S. bonds to the Treasury.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Davis. Changing time of holding court in Clinton county.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Redman. Amending act relating to Hannibal probate court.

Referred to Committee on Local Bills.

Same. To restrain power of city council of Hannibal from expending over \$35,000.

Referred to Committee on Local Bills.

Mr. Tittman. Amending act regulating the practice of pharmacy in St. Louis providing that those compounding medicines shall be responsible for quality of same and to prevent adulteration.

Referred to St. Louis Delegation.

Mr. Rolfe. Amending Road Law.

Referred to Committee on Roads and Highways.

Mr. Pettit. To prevent wilful trespass upon the lands of another, making the cutting of timber on another's land a misdemeanor punishable by fine and imprisonment.

Referred to Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence.

Mr. Slack. For relief and release of securities of Geo. W. Kitchen, late Sheriff of Stoddard county.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. King. To carry into effect convention ordinance of 1865, relative to railroad taxation. Laid over informally.

Mr. Poble. Amending act concerning distribution of Statutes, etc., so as to furnish laws to constables of townships.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Thatcher. Amending charter of Sedalia.

Referred to Committee on Local Bills.

Mr. Hutchins. Joint Concurrent Resolution requesting Governor to investigate recent tragedy in Clay County at home of the James Boys. Passed by vote 89 to 2.

Mr. Hutchins appropriating money to pay State Printers, Regan & Carter \$1,925.49 for publishing State Board of Equalization.

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Shields. Amending charter of the town of Dewitt.

Mr. Murray. Repealing act creating office of Marshal in Jackson county and devolving the duties thereof on the Sheriff.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. O'Neil. Amending Mechanics Lien law so as to reduce the time for day-laborers to give notice to ten days and to provide that judgments on mechanics lien should draw 12 per centum interest instead of 6 per cent.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Hudson, of St. Louis rose to a question of privilege on a paragraph published in the Capital correspondence of the St. Louis Republic, the